

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2401

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2392

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JM

SUBJ: JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER AND OPPOSITION LEADER

REACT TO CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE TESTIMONY

1. PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY AND OPPOSITION LEADER HUGH SHEARER ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON JULY 19, CONCERNING TESTIMONIES IN WASHINGTON BEFORE THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

2. SHEARER STATED QUOTE I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT MR. DE ROULET COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. I WOULD WANT TO SEE THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BEFORE MAKING ANY COMMENT ON THE MATTER. END QUOTE.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

A. QUOTE IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT AMBASSADOR VINCENT DE ROULET IS REPORTED TO HAVE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS THAT HE HAD MADE A DEAL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA WHEN HE WAS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION CONCERNING THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE FORTHCOMING JAMAICAN GENERAL ELECTION OF 1972, AND THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBLE NATIONALISATION OF THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY IN JAMAICA.

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B. QUOTE THIS REPORT IS CARRIED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE

SERVICE, DATELINED WASHINGTON JULY 19.

C. QUOTE I WISH TO STATE THAT IT IS TOTALLY UNTRUE THAT A DEAL OF ANY CHARACTER WAS MADE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DE ROULET AND MYSELF.

D. QUOTE ON ONE OCCASION I MADE AN OFFICIAL ENQUIRY OF THE AMBASSADOR AS TO WHETHER THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY COULD RELY UPON THE NEUTRALITY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN THE 1972 JAMAICAN ELECTION.

E. QUOTE AMBASSADOR DE ROULET GAVE ME THIS ASSURANCE AND SAID HE WISHED ME TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WAS NEUTRAL IN RELATION TO JAMAICAN POLITICS AND HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

F. QUOTE I DULY REPORTED THIS ASSURANCE TO THE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY AT THAT TIME. THIS INCLUDED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY, MR. DAVID CORRE, AND THE FOUR VICE PRESIDENTS, MESSRS. P.J. PATTERS, HOWARD COOKE, DUDLEY THOMPSON, AND F.A. GLASSPOLE.

G. QUOTE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AMBASSADOR DE ROULET RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE POSITION OF THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY IN JAMAICA WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS SUCH AS NATIONALISATION, LEVELS OF TAXATION, ETC., AND THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY TOWARDS FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

H. QUOTE I TOLD HIM THAT THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY DID NOT INTEND TO NATIONALISE THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY IF IT WON THE ELECTION IN 1972, AND THAT WE TOOK A FAVORABLE VIEW OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN JAMAICA, PROVIDED THAT INVESTORS WERE WILLING TO ACT IN TERMS OF REGARD FOR THE JAMAICAN NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP.

I. QUOTE I RECALL THAT ON ONE OCCASION AMBASSADOR DE ROULET EXPRESSED THE VIEW TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE JAMAICAN INVESTMENT CLIMATE IF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD GET INTO A BIDDING MATCH WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF NATIONALISATION OF BAUXITE.

J. QUOTE I REPEATED THAT THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY WOULD NOT BE MAKING THE NATIONALISATION OF BAUXITE A CAMPAIGN ISSUE BECAUSE IT WAS NOT IN FACT OUR POLICY TO NATIONALISE THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY.

K. QUOTE THROUGHOUT ALL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS NO QUESTION WHATSOEVER OF A DEAL WHICH TIED UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS THE ELECTION AND THE POLICY OF A PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY GOVERN-

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MENT TOWARDS THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY EVER AROSE. END QUOTE.
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